

December 2011

Guess This Plant

This is the FNJP's 11th edition in the *Guess that Plant* series.



As the winter sets in, the Flora of New Jersey thought it would be appropriate to provide a winter aspect of our plants for the *Guess that Plants* election. This December, we selected a common canopy tree. Most viewers would know the plant if shown the leaves so in the place of leaves you have to decide on the species based on the bark alone. The plant we selected is common to all counties and is always in young woodlands but can be present as a canopy associate in mature forests as well. It is a member of the Rose Family and its wood is often used to make fine furniture. Some consider it a nuisance but it is a critical mid-summer food source for our fruit eating birds and arboreal vertebrates, such as our fuzzy tailed tree-rodents (gray squirrels).

Investigate your favorite young forest to match this bark with the tree. Think you know who this is? Give us the answer for the December's *Guess that Plant*.